

Ronald R. LaCount
P.O. Box 1872
Minot, North Dakota 58702

January 7, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

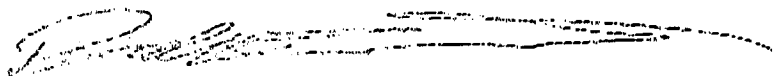
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I want to go on record to express my satisfaction with the settlement that ends the antitrust lawsuit between the Department of Justice and the Microsoft Corporation. I feel that the settlement goes a little further in placing restrictions on Microsoft than it should have, but all in all, I am happy with the results.

Microsoft did not get off easy. The settlement was arrived at after extensive negotiations with a court-appointed mediator. Microsoft agreed to terms that extend well beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit, sharing software information and accepting government oversight, for example. This was done just to get all of the litigation over with, and now allows Microsoft to divert all of their resources to producing innovative products and improving the economy.

The settlement is good for all parties involved. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ronald LaCount

cc: Senator Byron Dorgan